(b) if so, the schemes of financial assistance that can be given; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Tobacoo Board, among other measures, provides financial assistance to the tobacoo growers for the following:—

(1) Improving yield and quality of FCV Tobacco.

(2) Improving curing & storing facilities.

(3) Improving grading through community grading centres.

(4) Control/Monitoring of pesticide residues.

(5) Development of new areas for FCV Tobacco.

(6) On-Farm tests and experimental trials.

Request for funds Under Consumer Welfare Fund

2178. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Andhra Pradesh for an amount of Rs. 1.15 crores from the Consumer Welfare Fund to purchase instruments, Kits etc.;

(b) the reaction of Government to this request;

(c) whether funds have been released to Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of the Project have been called for from the state Government for processing the case.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of Coal Minies Provident fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948

2179. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring an amendments to the coal mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948 in order to provide social security to the work force; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when a bill incorporating the amendments is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Government proposes to introduce a Bill in the current Session of Parliament to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, to empower Government to formulate a suitable pension scheme for the employees in the Coal Industry.

Public Distribution System in the country

2180. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister fo CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of Public Distribution Systems operating in the country at present;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide ration to urban poor people at cheaper rates than that to the rural poor people;